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Vol V No 042 *1 March 1984*

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PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Tunis From Amman

LD011938 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Text] The brother commander Abu 'Ammar, [Yasir 'Arafat] the PLO Executive Committee Chairman and commander in chief of the Palestine revolution forces arrived in Tunis today from Amman at the end of a 3-day visit during which he held talks with King Husayn of Jordan and a number of Jordanian officials. A source in Amman said that a joint Palestinian-Jordanian statement will be issued later today outlining the joint endeavors of the PLO and Jordan.

Baghdad PLO Radio Reports 'Arafat Press Conference

JN012110 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1622 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar met at his place of residence in the guest palace in Amman last night with the editors in chief of the local newspapers and JNA. The meeting lasted for about 90 minutes. Abu 'Ammar dealt with the issues of the current stage. During this meeting brother leader Abu 'Ammar stressed that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue that lasted 4 days was not linked to any U.S. plans or any other draft plans, because no plans have been proposed to either Jordan or the PLO. Brother Abu 'Ammar believes his current visit to Jordan was one of his most important visits due to the fact that it restored what some foreign forces have attempted to sever. He stressed that the dialogue will continue and that a joint statement will be issued on the visit and not on the talks. He said that for Jordan, and King Husayn in particular, Jerusalem is no less important than Amman. For us, Jerusalem is not a transient word, but a word which has deep roots in the life of our Arab and Islamic nation, because it is the first of the two qiblas, the third holy place, and Christ's birthplace.

He said that there is a U.S. insistence on hostility toward the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the Arab nation. 'Arafat said that the United States used the veto at the UN Security Council against any draft resolution that would be in our interest. He said that the United States has not given us anything during normal years, so why should we expect the United States to give us anything during an election year? 'Arafat said that 1984 is the Israeli year for blackmailing the United States and not a year for peace.

In his statements to the journalists, Abu 'Ammar said: We as an Arab nation are passing through fateful events. I would like to remind my brothers of what I said before the Beirut war, namely that there is a partition conspiracy and a political map that is being drawn up for the region. Moreover, I have spoken about balkanization and the dark tunnel. He added: After the war, I spoke about the volcano that did not abate. In light of all these circumstances we are required to fight on more than one front at a time when the enemy is getting fiercer and escalating its measures to confiscate and Judaize the land and carry out aggression against the holy places during these bad times for Arabs, and at the same time statelets and sectarian cantons are appearing for the first time.

Abu 'Ammar said: We have to recall what Ben-Guirion said: I want a Maronite priest who is a major in the Lebanese Army and then the partitioning of Lebanon will take place. 'Arafat said: We will all pay the price for this. The serious thing for Lebanon is that in 1984 they partitioned Palestine and then devoured it. Attempts to partition the land and people are now taking place in Lebanon. What is taking place in Lebanon is a cancer that could spread in the Arab nation, and I have warned agaisnt all this. Abu 'Ammar was astonished by the fact that there are sectarian cantons that the Arab nation accepts; Druze, Maronite, Shi'ite, Sunnite, and Orthodox cantons, and only God knows what will take place later. 'Arafat said: If we allow this disease to spread in the Arab nation's body, it will never stop. 'Arafat spoke about the Arab fragmentation, using the Iraq-Iran war as an example, and noted the Iranian insistence on the continuation of the war. He said: I was a witness because I was a mediator and I participated in the Islamic committee. He added: The PLO was a member of the Nonaligned Committee, and despite this the war continues — a war which is a catastrophe for the Arab and Islamic nations. 'Arafat said: From this position I call on Iran to agree on what Iraq has agreed on, because Iraq has agreed on all the Islamic, nonaligned, and UN initiatives, but unfortunately, Iran has not responded to any single initiative. This is a burning issue for the Arab nation. All this requires, more than ever before, that we rise to the level of the challenges that we confront. Therefore, are we on the level of the challenges or not? Despite all this, I will never lose faith in the inevitability of victory.

Asked about the talks and contacts between Jordan and the PLO and whether these talks and contacts deal with a specific formula or are of a general nature concerning moves on all levels, Abu 'Ammar said: I shall not forget what King Husayn said during the difficult siege in Tripoli, the first joint Arab-Israeli siege of its kind in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. I shall not forget the king's words during that siege, or war, in Tripoli when he said: I am waiting for Abu 'Ammar so we can resume the dialogue without any conditions.

You will also recall that a Jordanian-Palestinian meeting took place in Tunis before my departure for Tripoli. I took part in that meeting. I also sent some of my brothers to Amman. While I was under siege, some of my brothers came to Amman and met with the Jordanian officials. Another meeting took place between the king and some of my brothers in Europe.

'Arafat said: Both sides have joined in these attempts to begin this dialogue on a fraternal basis so that it will be compatible with the challenge we are facing now. We were frank in our national council. We said that we are seeking this relationship, which we have called a confederation between the Jordanians and the Palestinians. At the same time, we and our Jordanian brothers are persevering by all means and ways in order to regain the land. To Jordan and King Husayn, Jerusalem is no less important than Amman. To us, Jerusalem is not a passing word, but a word with a significant meaning which is deeply rooted in the history of our Arab and Islamic nation. This is because Jerusalem is the third holiest place in Islam. It is also the birthplace of Jesus Christ. Therefore, this visit is considered one of my most important visits to Jordan. This visit renews what certain foreign forces tried to sever.

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'Arafat Chairs Fatah Meeting in Tunis 8 Mar

JN081020 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 8 Mar (INA) — An INA correspondent has learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat presided over a plenary meeting of the Fatah Central Committee here today. A responsible Palestinian information source told the correspondent that during this meeting the Central Committee will fix the final date for the convocation of the PNC's next ordinary session in the light of the contacts the Central Committee members have recently held in this regard. The source said that the PNC meetings will most likely be held during the first week of next month. The source denied that these meetings will be held in Tunis at the end of this month, emphasizing that they will be held in Algiers in response to an official Algerian invitation extended to the PLO.

QNA Report

GF072054 Doha QNA in Arabic 1925 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 7 Mar (QNA) — The Fatah Central Committee meeting started a 3-day round of its ordinary meetings in Tunis yesterday evening in the presence of Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman. The QNA correspondent in Tunis has learned that the Central Committee listened to a report from Mr Yasir 'Arafat on the results of his recent talks with King Husayn of Jordan in Amman regarding Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the joint action to support the steadfastness of the Palestinians inside the occupied land as well as the political move on various levels in international and Arab arenas.

An informed Palestinian source told the correspondent that the commitee discussed the political move that will be made by Mr 'Arafat and a number of the Central Committee members including the possibility that the Central Committee chairman may make a new visit to the Jordanian capital in order to meet with the Chinese president who will begin an official visit to Jordan soon, as well as the possibility of visiting Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries during this month.

He added that the committee also listened to a report from Mr Khalid al-Hasan, member of the committee and head of the PNC Foreign Relations Committee, on the activities and the contacts he made last week in France with a number of French and European officials and parliamentarians and which concentrated on how Europe could play a distinctive role in resolving the Middle East crisis. The committee will continue its meetings today and tomorrow in order to review the results of the efforts that are currently being made in order to convene the PNC and Fatah's fifth general congress as well as to assess the situation in the Palestinian, Arab and international arenas.

AKHBAR AL-USBU Reports on Upcoming PNC Session

JN080835 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 8 Mar 84 p 24

[Text] *AKHBAR AL-USBU'* has learned that the PNC will hold a session during the last week of this month. An informed Palestinian source informed *AKHBAR AL-USBU'* that the agenda for the next PNC session is being finalized. The source asserted that during the PNC's meetings, the dissidents — those who raised arms against their brothers, and those who deviated through their words and ideas — will be removed from the Palestinian consensus. The source added that new members will be elected, the PNC will be expanded, and a new PLO Executive Committee will be formed under Yasir 'Arafat.

'Arafat May Meet PRC Leader in Amman

JN081253 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Chinese President Li Xiannian will arrive in Amman today on a 6-day official visit to Jordan. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will return to Amman within the next few hours to meet with the Chinese president. Informed sources in the Jordanian capital say that King Husayn will receive 'Arafat during this visit. However, the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders are not expected to hold a detailed dialogue on the topics discussed during the PLO chairman's recent visit to Amman — a visit which has constituted a new starting point for the resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue on the future of bilateral relations and stands toward supporting the inhabitants in the occupied territories and dealing with the Middle East political settlement plans.

'Arafat Organizes PLO's Amman Cadres

JN071111 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Mar 84 p 18

[Text] Amman — *AR-RA'Y* has learned that during his visit to Jordan, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat adopted a number of decisions to reorganize the organs and cadres of the PLO in Amman. It has been learned also the PLO chairman approved the resignation of 17 employees of the PLO's cadres in Amman. They will be replaced by new persons including some strugglers who were released from the Israeli jails in the recent POW exchange that took place between the PLO and the Israeli enemy.

Baghdad PLO Radio on Retaliation Against Israel

JN080745 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1627 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] Our citizens in the occupied homeland can retaliate equally to Zionist terrorism and with the same degree of violence. This has been proven by today's daring operation in Ashdod. Three days ago, a bus carrying Palestinian workers returning from their work was passing near Ramallah. Suddenly, fire was opened at the bus and six workers were wounded. Of course, the occupation security authorities makes every endeavor to uncover any operation against a Zionist individual but they make no effort at all to uncover operations of Zionist terrorism against Palestinian citizens. Such Zionist terrorist operations are identical to the Israeli government policy, regardless of the false games that we see, games such as arresting a number of settlers and releasing them afterwards because nothing had been proven against them. This is how it always happens. First of all there

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Israel

After 11 hours of debate, the Knesset decided by 61 votes to 58 to adopt the Alignment, TAMI, and Hadash bills calling for the dissolution of the Knesset and early elections, Jerusalem radio reported. The bills were transferred to the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee which will consolidate them into a draft law and determine the election date, the radio noted. While Likud MK Ehud Olmert said in a Jerusalem television interview that September would be the most "reasonable" time to hold elections, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres told the Knesset that they should be in May or June because a lengthy electoral campaign would waste money, postpone important economic decisions, and allow the government to promote a "sham election economy." In his speech, broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Peres also affirmed the Alignment's desire to establish a government composed of all forces supporting a "national recovery scheme" and which will not depend on small factions whose bargaining power exceeds their size.

Lebanon

Security Situation — The Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, said the recent military action against Al-Murabitun was "inevitable" in order to return Beirut to its "honest" people and tonormalize the security situation "which deteriorated recently in West Beirut." Without mentioning Al-Murabitun by name, the statement deplored those who were planning among other things to cause "security disturbances," collect protection money, reopen armed party offices, rally armed men, kidnap Christians, and stir sectarian unrest. A PSP delegation subsequently briefed Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Lebanese Republic, on these "plots" and on "the intention to infiltrate some elements that have harmed Beirut in the past," according to a PSP source cited by the radio. The PSP agreed to the mufti's demand that "armed manifestations" be removed shortly in order to allow the internal security forces to assume security responsibilities, the source added. In remarks after the meeting, reported by Beirut radio, the mufti confirmed the agreement to end all armed activity on the streets but called for the return of property seized from Al-Murabitun. As for the latter's clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio, which currently is unheard, the mufti said its situation is being studied.

Meanwhile, PSP and Amal gunmen took over all the Al-Murabitun positions in West Beirut and also seized offices belonging to the Arab Socialist Union, the Communist Action Organization, and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, according to the Voice of Lebanon. The PSP claimed to have captured some 200 Al-Murabitun members on 22 March, the radio said, but remaining Al-Murabitun gunmen ambushed a PSP vehicle the following day. The Voice of Lebanon revised its estimates of the casualties in the fighting downward to "scores" of dead and wounded and, in a Radio Monte Carlo interview, former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam spoke only of "two or three killed and some wounded."

In other security developments, clashes continued across the contact lines in and around Beirut, according to the Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Al-Jumayyil on U.S., Dialogue — President Amin al-Jumayyil told journalists in remarks reported by Beirut radio that the United States "tricked him by making him believe that it had obtained a Syrian pledge to adhere to the 17 May agreement and to withdraw the Syrian forces." Commenting on the outcome of the Lausanne conference in a press interview cited by the Voice of Lebanon, Al-Jumayyil said future meetings of the National Dialogue Conference will involve "new faces and mentalities."

Syria

Although Jerusalem radio's Arabic service cited a London press report that President Hafiz al-Asad suffered a second heart attack and is unconscious, Damascus radio reported that Al-Asad held talks with visiting French philosopher Roger Garaudy.

Arab-U.S. Relations

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak held talks in Cairo with U.S. presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld, MENA reported. Meanwhile, an Amman radio commentary said that President Reagan's decision to withdraw his plan to supply Jordan and Saudi Arabia with Stinger missiles signals the United States' "final relinquishment" of its Arab friends and its "absolute commitment" to the Israeli side.

Afghanistan

The DRA's High Council of Ulema, in a statement broadcast by Kabul radio, blamed "the servants of America" for a 21 March explosion in a Kabul mosque that killed four people and injured seven others. In response to the bombing, "about 100,000" people participated in a protest march to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, the radio reported. Meanwhile, a DRA Foreign Ministry statement carried by BAKHTAR denounced President Reagan's "fabricated and instigatory statement on the so-called Afghanistan Day."

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'Arafat Confers With USSR, French Ambassadors

JN221722 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has met with the USSR ambassador in Tunis. The ambassador reiterated the USSR's support for the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The USSR ambassador said that this support will continue to aid in the restoration of the Palestinian people's inalienable and legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their homeland's soil. He added that the USSR considers the Palestinian question a cause of freedom and justice.

Our correspondent has also learned that they discussed the recent developments in the Arab region, particularly those related to the Palestinian question and the Lebanese situation.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar also met with the French ambassador in Tunis. The talks dealt with the situation of our people's sons under the yoke of the Zionist occupation in the occupied homeland, and the Palestinians' situation in the Lebanese camps. The two sides also reviewed the international situation and developments of the Palestinian and Arab situations.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar returned to Tunis from Khartoum the night before last following a tour of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the YAR, and Sudan.

PLO's 'Abbas Says PLO-Syrian Relations Improved

LD231202 Kuwait KUNA in English 1026 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, March 23 (KUNA) — A senior Palestinian official asserted Friday that relations between Syria and the mainstream Palestinian commando movement Fatah have improved.

PLO Executive Committee member, Mahmud 'Abbas told *AL-QABAS* daily newspaper that a Palestinian official is currently in Damascus for talks with Syrian officials to agree on future rapprochement steps but declined to elaborate on the Palestinian official's identity.

'Abbas, who is also Central Committee member of Fatah, led by Yasir 'Arafat, pointed out that a senior Fatah delegation will shortly head for the Syrian capital in the event an agreement was reached on various questions.

AL-QABAS quoted 'Abbas, currently in Baghdad, as saying that the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue has covered several strides for coordination and cooperation.

Meanwhile, the official emphasized the Palestinian revolution's support to Iraq in its war with Iran and highlighted that the PLO has exerted efforts to end that 42 month old war.

The Fatah movement witnessed a serious split early last year which escalated into an armed confrontation late last year in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli.

The Syrian backing to the Fatah breakaways sparked a serious Syrian-Palestinian dispute which up to date has not healed.

Syria, USSR Reportedly Sign Military Agreement

JN230717 (Clandestine) Palestinian Voice of National Unity in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Informed sources in the Syrian capital have said that CPSU Central Committee Politburo [words indistinct] Geydar Aliyev signed a new military protocol during his recent visit to Damascus that included supplying Syria with MIG 29 and MIG 31 aircraft which [words indistinct]. The Americans have supplied the Zionist entity with a new communications network that is connected with the U.S. satellites.

The sources added that the agreement also stipulates equipping Syria militarily so that it will be transformed from the position of defense [words indistinct].

AL-WATAN on Algerian Plan to End Gulf War

GF231017 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] Citing Arab diplomatic sources the Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN* today reported that during his recent visit to Syria, Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi proposed a ten-point plan to end the Iraqi-Iranian war. *AL-WATAN* says that Ibrahimi asked Syrian officials to make special efforts to persuade Iran to accept the Algerian plan. The paper says that if the plan crystallizes it will be proposed as an Arab plan enjoying the support of the majority of Arab states.

AL-WATAN said that the Algerian Government had proposed the plan to the Iranian officials who visited Algeria recently, including Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and that the understanding shown by the Iranian officials encouraged the Algerian Government to dispatch envoys to the region to hold consultations before a new Algerian mediation that may end the war.

Klibi Says Meeting To Precede Afro-Arab Summit

LD222359 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1607 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 22 Mar (SPA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi announced that a meeting of Arab and African foreign ministers would be held in May to prepare for the second Arab-African summit conference. He said the summit will be the culmination of work done by both sides at the specialist council level.

In a press conference held with acting OAU Secretary General Peter Onu today, Klibi pointed out that cooperation between the two organizations is regulated and based on apparatus inactive for various reasons. Now that these reasons have been removed, there have been frequent meetings, consultations, and discussions of spheres of cooperation in the economic, political, financial, and cultural fields. He added that preparations are now under way for the seventh session of the permanent committee which will

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Foreign Ministers Invited To Arab League Session

LD240828 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Chedli Klibi, general secretary of the Arab League, has addressed an invitation to the Arab foreign ministers to attend the 81st regular session of the League Council to be held this coming Thursday in Tunis for 3 days. Arab League sources stated that Klibi emphasized through the contacts he recently had with the foreign ministers the necessity to take part in this session in view of the importance of the topics on its agenda and in order to be able to set up the remaining committees to study the topics presented on the agenda of the forthcoming Arab summit conference.

The sources explained that agreement was reached, following the postponment of the summit conference, to set up five ministerial committees: the charter committee and the Iraqi-Iranian war committee, which have already been set up; the Arab-Israeli conflict committee, the Arab relations with interantional groupings committee, and the joint Arab action committee.

Source Cited on Personnel Changes in Fatah

LD241507 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1344 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 24 Mar (KUNA) — The Fatah Central Committee meeting scheduled to be held here this evening has been postponed because most members of the committee are abroad. At present, Fatah Central Committee members Yasir 'Arafat, Hani al-Hasan, Muhammad Gunaym, Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, Salah Khalaf, and Khalif al-Wazir are in Tunisia.

An informed Palestinian source told KUNA that during its upcoming meeting the Central Committee will reconsider the present responsibilities of its members. This source, who asked that his name not be disclosed, explained that during this meeting posts will be switched among members of the committee. Rafiq an-Natshah will become responsible for mobilization and organization in the movement in place of Muhammad Gunaym, who will take control of financial affairs.

The source refused to give other details about anticipated changes within the Central Committee. However, he expressed his belief that the committee will hold a meeting next week attended by all its members.

Yasir 'Arafat Meets Various Officials in Tunis

Italian Envoy, Jesse Jackson Aide

JN241744 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received the Italian ambassador in Tunis yesterday. Our radio correspondent said that the talks dealt with recent developments in the Arab and international arenas, particularly the Palestinian question. The correspondent added that brother leader Abu 'Ammar asked the Italian ambassador to convey a message to the Italian Government in which he expresses his appreciation for Italy's support for the Palestinian people and their just cause.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar also received in Tunis yesterday Robert Brown, adviser to the Reverend Jesse Jackson, a Democratic candidate in the upcoming U.S. presidential election. Brown reiterated to brother leader Abu 'Ammar the solidarity of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, his loyalists, and all U.S. blacks with the Palestinian people's question and the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Our correspondent has learned that during the meeting, brother leader Abu 'Ammar presented a detailed explanation of the developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas.

Greek Ambassador

LD241527 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis 24 Mar (TAP) — Yasir 'Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, last night had talks with the Greek ambassador to Tunis. It has been learned from press sources that 'Arafat acquainted the Greek ambassador with the latest developments in the Middle East and in the Lebanese arena. It was learned from the same sources that the Palestinian leader stressed the PLO's permanent concern to reinforce Palestinian-Greek relations and strengthen the bonds of friendship for the well-being of the two peoples and to serve the causes of justice, liberation, and peace in the world.

The Greek diplomat once again reiterated the stance of his country, government, and people in all international gatherings on the side of the just struggle being waged by the Palestinian people under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, headed by Yasir 'Arafat, to regain their rights to return to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

'Arafat gave the ambassador a message of appreciation to the Greek Government for its supportive and unrestricted stances for the struggle of the Palestinian people.

The talks were held in the presence of Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, and Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO's representative in Tunis.

SFRY's Dragosavac

LD252325 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat met in Tunis this evening with Dusan Dragosavac, member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, for 2 hours during which they reviewed major political developments in the Palestinian issue. On this occasion, Mr Dragosavac handed the Palestinian leader an official invitation to visit Yugoslavia, which consistently supports the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO.

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